



# A REPORT FROM THE 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## 13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

REP. JANÉA HOLMQUIST

REP. BILL HINKLE



March 2003

Dear friends,

We went to the state Capitol in January ready to work cooperatively on the important issues facing Central Washington, like water management, jobs, transportation, education, taxes and health care. We need responsible solutions to these problems to preserve the quality of life in our part of the state – and to begin restoring the loss of public trust in state government.

You can help us by taking a few minutes to read this report on some of the issues that affect our area, and sharing your thoughts with us.

The 13<sup>th</sup> District is one of the largest in the state, stretching across the heart of Washington from Snoqualmie Pass east beyond Moses Lake. Letters like this help us reach your household and others with information efficiently, and you can expect to see a few more of these over the next two years, to help us stay connected. But we really prefer to correspond more directly with the people we represent.

Send us your e-mail address so we can regularly inform you about things happening at the Capitol. Call us using the toll-free legislative hotline, send e-mails, write letters, or stop in for a visit if you are in the Olympia area. We're always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Janéa Holmquist

  
Rep. Bill Hinkle

### REP. JANÉA HOLMQUIST

#### Committees:

Agriculture & Natural Resources –  
*assistant Ranking Republican*  
Commerce & Labor  
Republican Leadership

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### REP. BILL HINKLE

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**TOLL - FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1 - 800 - 562 - 6000**

**LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET: [WWW.HRC.LEG.WA.GOV](http://WWW.HRC.LEG.WA.GOV)**

**STATE GOVERNMENT ON THE INTERNET: [WWW.ACCESS.WA.GOV](http://WWW.ACCESS.WA.GOV)**

# REPRESENTATIVES JANÉA HOLMQUIST & BILL HINKLE

## BRING JOBS AND PROSPERITY BACK TO WASHINGTON

We're concerned about the state budget, but it isn't the real crisis in Washington. What worries us most is unemployment, and the sad shape of our economy. Since 1999, Washington has lost 160,000 jobs - almost the population of Vancouver. During the past two years our state's unemployment rate has hovered near the worst in the country.

We and other House Republicans want to get Washington back to where it was by creating 160,000 new private-sector jobs in the next three years. To do that, we need regulatory changes like those suggested by the Washington Competitiveness Council. Pursuing regulatory reform is vital to free our employers from burdensome regulations. We can encourage job growth and attract new employers. We also believe government needs to change its attitude, and remember that its financial health depends directly on the private sector. Government must act as a partner, not an adversary, with employers who are the foundation of our economy and who provide jobs and income for our citizens.

## REBUILD TRUST THROUGH RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

State government budgets are written to cover two years' worth of income and spending. In spite of the lousy economy, our state expects to collect much more revenue in the next two years than it did during 2001-03. Even so, there won't be nearly enough money to maintain state-provided services in 2003-05. That tells us the "shortfall" estimated at \$2.6 billion is caused by a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

The solution? Raising taxes would only cause employers and families to struggle even more. The responsible answer is to do what families must do when hard times hit, and live within our means. That means reducing services to a level we can afford. We're pleased Governor Locke publicly favors that approach instead of calling for general tax increases. But it remains to be seen whether members of his party will follow his lead.

Balancing an operating budget without raising taxes will require significant cuts. We are working to make cuts in government middle management to lessen the impact on citizens who truly depend on government. But the overspending and declining economy we've seen the past two years make it impossible to avoid some pain this year. That's the honest way to explain it.

## LET'S MAKE CHOICE, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OUR PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE

It's clear that we can do better providing health care for all citizens. To do that, however, we must work for a cost-effective solution instead of more government bureaucracy. Over the next two years we'll be working to strengthen your ability to make the important decisions about your health care. We must ensure patients maintain choice as we strive to make health care services more affordable and available to more people.

Health care costs are going up. Employers and employees are paying more out of pocket, and they have nowhere to turn. State government continues to dictate that health insurers include everything but the kitchen sink in their basic plans. But what consumers really need is more reliable, affordable coverage that provides care for their families when they're sick.

Affordable plans that provide good coverage, help prevent illness and give people more choice are available. But the government doesn't allow everyone to select these streamlined plans. We think consumers who have employer-provided health coverage and those who get coverage through the state should also have access to such innovative plans that give patients more choice and keep health care affordable.



**REP. JANÉA HOLMQUIST SERVES THIS YEAR AS THE ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN FLOOR LEADER. HER DUTIES INCLUDE WORKING WITH REPUBLICAN LEADER REP. CATHY McMORRIS TO COORDINATE FLOOR DEBATE FOR HOUSE REPUBLICANS.**

# A REPORT FROM THE 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MAKING GOVERNMENT PERFORM BETTER

The first bill we passed in the House this session was a step in the right direction. It would make state government more accountable to Washington taxpayers by establishing a citizen oversight board to develop a grading program for state agency performance. It also would authorize the state auditor to do regular performance audits of government systems and operations.

Performance audits go beyond fiscal, or spending, audits. Performance audits examine the quality of service an agency supplies, how it treats its customers, whether it's being efficient, and how it's performing. House Republicans have pushed for performance audits for years.

This bill moves towards the next stage of reestablishing accountability in our state agencies. Bringing the agencies under control will remain a priority. Legislators in the House sent bureaucrats a message: the citizens and auditors will be watching.

## LEGISLATION WORTH WATCHING

**House Bill 1112:** The three state-level boards that hear Growth Management Act appeals have been overstepping their authority and essentially ignoring GMA decisions made at the local level. HB 1112 would reduce opportunities for the state boards to interfere.

**House Bill 1113:** This measure would make it easier for Kittitas-area water purveyors to work together on water-quality and fish issues by allowing the formation of a Kittitas "board of joint control." (Bill has passed the House)

**House Bill 1612:** If a parent seeks to have a child treated at a mental health facility, the facility would have to provide written and verbal notice regarding treatment options and procedures. (Bill has passed the House)

**House Joint Memorial 4007:** Coal mining was an important industry in the Upper Kittitas Valley. This measure requests that the United States Postal Service issue a postage stamp commemorating American coalminers. (Bill has passed the House)

## WATER POLICY PROTECTION FOR CENTRAL WASHINGTON

A reasonable natural resource policy to ensure our children will have the opportunity to hold onto our land and enjoy the environment must be our goal. If we work together to develop solutions, we can find that balance.

Taking a step forward, Republicans in the state House of Representatives have introduced a package of legislation proposing a wide range of water policy changes in Washington.



REP. HINKLE IS ASSISTANT HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP.

We have concerns with the package of water-related proposals unveiled by Governor Locke and are disappointed and concerned that the governor's legislation dealt mostly with municipal water suppliers. Agriculture stakeholders were left wondering where the issues they're most concerned about would fit in.

In contrast, the Republican package addresses issues from the Department of Ecology's "use it or lose it" policy (also referred to as 'relinquishment') to permitting requirements, consumptive use, and stock watering.

Here are a few of the bills we have introduced aimed at answering concerns of the citizens of the 13th District:

- **House Bill 1535** would clarify that a 5,000-gallon per day stock water rights limit applies only to single or group domestic and industrial uses.

- **House Bill 1757** would change the relinquishment timeline to once every

15 years, allowing more flexibility by water right owners. There are concerns among many water right holders regarding "use-it-or-lose it" relinquishment provisions. Currently, the state's relinquishment policy presumes that all or a portion of a water right is relinquished to the state if it has not fully been exercised once every five years.

- **House Bill 1543** would answer the recommendations of the Washington Competitiveness Council by removing water rights administration from the Department of Ecology and creating the Washington Water Commission.



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## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

### What's most important to your family?

Please take the time to share your thoughts and return this in care of the address below. Thank you in advance for your input. We hope to hear from you soon and in the months ahead.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Please share your thoughts in the space below and return by mail to:  
Reps. Janéa Holmquist and Bill Hinkle  
P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

You may also send this to us by e-mail:  
holmquis\_ja@leg.wa.gov or hinkle\_bi@leg.wa.gov

## WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

*If you would like periodic updates on issues that you've indicated are important to you, please provide information below.*

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Name 

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Address 

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 and/or

E-Mail 

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